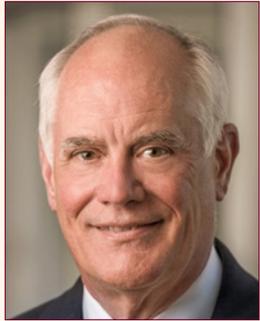


Appointments



Joseph F. Matthews

South County Health announces two to leadership roles

South County Health reported on the progress made to fulfill its five-year Strategic Plan at the organization's Annual Meeting on Monday, April 26, including the introduction of its new chairman of the Board of Trustees, and new Chief Philanthropy Officer.

The meeting, held publicly via video conferencing, drew approximately 185 participants, the highest number to ever attend. Participants included members of the board, hospital administrators and staff, medical staff, volunteers, donors, media and the general public.

Wakefield resident **JOSEPH F. MATTHEWS** was named chairman of South County Health's Board of Trustees, succeeding the position formerly held by outgoing chairman **DENNIS LYNCH**.



Dennis Lynch

Matthews, a third generation of family ownership of Maxson Automatic Machinery Company based in Westerly, RI, previously served as a member of the South County Health Board of Trustees from 2006–2015 and South County Home Health's Board of Directors from 2003–2008.

Matthews will serve a three-year term as chairman of South County Health's Board of Trustees.

Additional new members of the Board of Trustees include **ROBERT J. BIERWIRTH, MD** (ex officio), Steve Blazejewski, **SANDRA COLETTA**, **JOHN WARDLE**, and **AARON WEISBORD, MD**.

After an extensive, national candidate search and numerous interviews of highly-qualified candidates by members of South County Health's Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, and Development Team, **JAY LOCKABY** was introduced as the newest member of South County Health's Executive Leadership Team as Vice President of Development and Chief Philanthropy Officer.

In his role, Lockaby will also serve as the newly established Foundation's Executive Director, working closely with its board members to engage support for key programs and services within South County Health.

Lockaby brings 20 years of fundraising leadership to this position, having directed successful capital campaigns, provided strategic planning, and worked collaboratively with board governance to exceed goals and bring numerous organizations' capital projects to fruition. ❖

Melissa M. Murphy, MD, named CNE's Executive Chief of Surgery

Care New England has announced the appointment of **MELISSA M. MURPHY, MD**, to Executive Chief of Surgery for Care New England.

Previous to this appointment, Dr. Murphy served as Chief of Surgery for Kent Hospital since July of 2020 and was formerly Assistant Chief of Surgery, and Medical Director, Surgical Quality and Operations at Kent Hospital from 2018 to 2020.

As the Executive Chief of Surgery for Care New England, Dr. Murphy will be collaborating with Care New England surgeons and departments system-wide to continue to grow and expand access to meet the needs of patients. She will also support CNE's existing programs and centers of excellence and work to develop new programs incorporating CNE's mission of expanding diversity, inclusion, and equity. ❖



Cain Hayes named CEO of Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

WATERTOWN/WELLESLEY – The combined organization of Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care today announced that its board of directors has appointed **CAIN HAYES** as the organization's next chief executive officer effective July 5, 2021.

Hayes joins the organization from Gateway Health located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he currently serves as president and CEO and is responsible for the strategy and day to day operations of one of the nation's top-ranked managed care organizations. Prior to joining Gateway Health, Hayes served as president and COO of the Health Business at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Prior to joining Blue Cross, he was president of National Accounts, president of the Mid-America region and president of the Government-sector and Labor division for Aetna.

"I would like to congratulate Cain on his appointment and welcome him to our organization," said Tom Croswell, CEO of the Tufts Health Plan and Harvard Pilgrim organization. "I look forward to working with him to ensure an effective and smooth leadership transition."

The appointment of Mr. Hayes follows a thorough recruitment process overseen by a selection committee of the board, which vetted and interviewed a diverse slate of experienced internal and external candidates. The committee retained a national executive search firm to provide support through the search process. ❖



Appointments



Anne Schmidt, DNP, appointed Senior Vice President Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer of The Miriam Hospital

PROVIDENCE – **ANNE SCHMIDT, DNP, APRN-BC, CENP, CPHQ**, has been appointed Senior Vice President Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer of The Miriam Hospital.

Schmidt, who has had a 30-year nursing career, comes from a regional hospital system in Virginia and previously held nursing leadership posts at other hospitals in Rhode Island. She began on May 10.

“We conducted an extensive national search for this vital position and are pleased to have such a highly qualified individual join us. Dr. Schmidt is an exceptional nurse leader who throughout her career has demonstrated a commitment to elevating patient care and advancing the practice of nursing. She is passionate about her work and a great fit for The Miriam Hospital team,” said **MARIA DUCHARME, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**, president of The Miriam Hospital.

Schmidt succeeds Ducharme, who became president of the hospital at the beginning of 2021.

Schmidt comes to The Miriam from Novant Health University of Virginia Health System, a three-hospital regional health system in northern Virginia. She was responsible for all nursing and support departments for a combined 190 beds at two hospitals. She led COVID-19 emergency preparations and response, established staffing models, oversaw training for staff, and identified equipment and supply needs.

Previously, Schmidt served as vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at South County Health in Wakefield. Prior to that position, she was director of nursing operations at St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital.

“I’m excited to return to Rhode Island and am proud to be joining The Miriam Hospital, which has a longstanding and well-deserved reputation for excellence,” said Schmidt. “We are emerging from an extremely challenging pandemic and my top priority will be ensuring the health and well-being of our patients and our staff.”

Schmidt earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree focused on healthcare quality from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She also has a post-master’s certificate in nursing administration from Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C. She earned a master’s degree in adult nurse practitioner/geriatric nursing from the University of San Diego. She is a Lean Six Sigma green belt.

Schmidt serves on the American Organization for Nursing Leadership’s Region 1 Board of Directors. Her certifications include the American Organization of Nurse Executives Certified Executive of Nursing Practice, Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality, and the American Nurse Credentialing Center Adult Nurse Practitioner Certification. She is also a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the National Association for Healthcare Quality, as well as several other national organizations.

Schmidt first came to Rhode Island with the Navy, where she began her nursing career. She is a resident of Middletown. ❖

Recognition

South County Health receives two five-star ratings from CMS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released its hospital ranking for 2021, giving South County Hospital two 5-Star ratings – Overall Hospital Quality and Patient Experience.

No other hospital in Rhode Island received a 5-Star ranking in either category.

Only 455 hospitals across the country earned 5-Stars in at least one category.

The CMS Hospital Quality Star rating system was created by Medicare in July 2016 to help healthcare consumers make informed decisions by simplifying complex criteria that measures healthcare quality.

Overall Hospital Quality

The Hospital Quality rating is calculated by CMS, the federal agency that runs the Medicare program, using data from hospital industry and public sector stakeholders, including The Joint Commission (TJC), the National Quality Forum (NQF), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). These stakeholders collaborate to publicly report results of hospital performance data in such areas as:

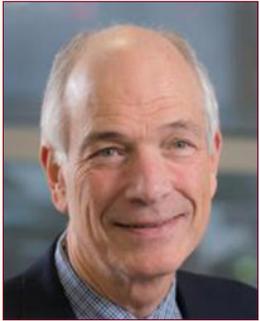
- Mortality
- Safety of care
- Readmission
- Patient experience
- Effectiveness of care
- Timeliness of care
- Efficient use of medical imaging

Patient Experience

Patient Experience is measured using a national survey that asks patients about their experiences during a recent hospital stay. The survey is administered by Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS).

South County Hospital is the only hospital in Rhode Island to have been awarded 5-Star rankings in Hospital Quality and Patient Experience since CMS implemented the system, earning the distinction in 2021, 2020, 2019, and 2017. ❖

Recognition



Dr. Vincent Mor honored by Brown University

PROVIDENCE – During the May 2021 Commencement of at Brown University, **DR. VINCENT MOR**, a Research Health Scientist working in the Center of Innovation on Long-term Services and Supports for Vulnerable Veterans (LTSS-COIN) at the Providence VA Medical Center and a Professor of Medical Science at Brown University was

honored with the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal of Honor.

The medal is the highest honor the Brown faculty can bestow, and past honorees include Nobel laureates, university presidents, and esteemed public servants.

“We are extremely proud of Dr. Mor not just specifically for this award but also for the continuing groundbreaking research and public health solutions his research has led to for our Veteran population,” said **LAWRENCE CONNELL**, Director of the Providence VA Medical Center.

As an investigator at the Providence VA Medical Center, Dr. Mor has been instrumental in the development of the VA Center of Innovation in Long Term Services and Supports, where he is now directing several independent investigator-initiated research projects.

Dr. Mor was a key developer of the critical component of nursing home quality – the Minimum Data Set, a comprehensive assessment of patient characteristics that is completed on regular intervals for all nursing home patients. These data sets form the basis for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service 5-Star Nursing Home rating system. ❖



Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, receives honorary degree at Bryant commencement

SMITHFIELD – **PAARI GOPALAKRISHNAN, MD, MBA**, Chief Medical Officer at Kent Hospital, who led the effort to establish Rhode Island’s COVID field hospital in Cranston, received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree at the Bryant University Graduate 2021 commencement ceremony

on May 20th. He was among seven awardees who were recognized for career achievements and mission-driven contributions to the region and their fields.

Dr. Gopalakrishnan received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and completed his internal medicine residency at Brown University. He received his MBA with honors from Bryant University. ❖

ASRA names Taif Mukhdomi, MD, 2021 Resident/Fellow of the Year

The American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA) has named **TAIF MUKHDOMI, MD, MBS, MHA**, the 2021 Resident/Fellow of the Year.

Dr. Mukhdomi is a resident in anesthesiology at Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital where he has been chief resident since 2020.

In July 2021, he will begin fellowship at the New York Presbyterian/Weill-Cornell Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Cancer Center, and Hospital for Special Surgery, Tri-Institutional Pain Fellowship. He earned his MD from Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University and his undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University in Columbus.

Dr. Mukhdomi has served on the ASRA Resident Section Committee since 2019. He has co-authored 19 articles including one manuscript and three correspondence letters in *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine*, covering topics such as safety in outpatient total knee arthroplasty, use of psychedelics in chronic pain, and explant rates of neuromodulation devices.

ALEXANDER COHEN, MD, director of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine and Acute Pain Resident Rotation director at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, nominated Dr. Mukhdomi for the award. He cited Dr. Mukhdomi’s participation in ASRA’s Resident Section Committee and dedication to coordinating with other leaders to troubleshoot resident/fellowship involvement in ASRA during the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Mukhdomi also created a pain medicine interest group at Brown University and has actively encouraged medical students to join ASRA.

“Dr. Mukhdomi is an exceptional physician, educator, researcher, and (most importantly) advocate for [ASRA],” Dr. Cohen said. “I anticipate he will continue to persevere in his endeavors to promote our field of regional anesthesia and pain medicine, and we will likely see him as a future leader in our specialty.”

ASRA’s Resident/Fellow of the Year Award is given annually to a resident or fellow member of ASRA who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to regional anesthesia or pain medicine; has contributed to the advancement of the profession, welfare of residents, or quality of residency education; serves as a role model and mentor to his or her peers; and embodies the values of ASRA.

“I am humbled to accept this award from ASRA,” Dr. Mukhdomi said. “I have truly enjoyed my involvement with ASRA throughout my medical education, and I hope to have continued involvement as I progress through my career.”

Dr. Mukhdomi accepted the award at the 46th Annual Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine Meeting held May 13–15 in Lake Buena Vista, FL and virtually. ❖

